

## ORTHOPEDIC SHOE APPLIANCE AND METHOD

### Cross Reference to Related Applications

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This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/467,973, now U.S. patent No. 6,170,176.

### BACKGROUND -- DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

5 When a person ambulates, or moves from place to place such as by walking, a host of triplane motions occur to the foot structure, broadly termed pronation and supination. Pronation generally involves rotation of a joint or part in a forward direction or toward the midline of the body. Supination generally involves rotation of a joint or part in an outward direction or away from the midline of the body. When a person over-pronates, or for any  
10 other reason places too much force on the inside of the foot, excessive mobility of the medial arch area of the foot can result. The resulting foot instability can be manifested as arch, foot, ankle, and/or leg pain, as well as postural problems from excessive internal rotation of the leg.

Conventional orthopedic corrective devices described to address this problem include  
15 many different types. However, none provide for an orthopedic shoe appliance specifically adapted to provide improved stability of the foot structure, and a method of providing for improved stability of the foot structure, during ambulation in the manner which is provided for in the present invention.

United States Patent No. 5,881,478, issued March 16, 1999 to McMahon et al.